

Bay St. Louis Business of the Year Nominees

Anthony's Ristorante

Anthony's Ristorante has quickly become one of Bay St. Louis' premier dining destinations, blending authentic Italian cuisine with exceptional hospitality in the heart of Old Town. Led by Owner Jolynne Trapani and her son, Chef Joseph Trapani, the restaurant represents the next generation of one of Hancock County's most respected restaurant families whose contributions have helped shape the Coast's culinary landscape and culture for more than three decades.

Named for Joseph Trapani's middle name—and inspired by the legacy of his late father, Tony, who started Trapani's Eatery more than 30 years ago with Jolynne—Anthony's is both a celebration of family heritage and a bold new chapter for Bay St. Louis dining. Located on Court Street, the restaurant has elevated the city's culinary scene while contributing to the continued growth and energy of Old Town. With handcrafted Italian cuisine, elegant surroundings, and a commitment to outstanding service, Anthony's is truly a unique and elevated dining experience for the region.

By honoring a family legacy while embracing the future, Anthony's Ristorante enriches tourism offerings as well as the dining experience and economic vitality of Hancock County.

Coast Aesthetics at the Bay

Building on the success of its established Ocean Springs practice, Coast Aesthetics at the Bay has expanded advanced medical aesthetics and wellness services to downtown Bay St. Louis, bringing specialized expertise and investment to Main Street. Founded by Jessica Luce, DNP, CRNA, and locally owned by Katelyn Abernathy and Jessica Luce, the practice combines advanced medical training with a personalized approach to patient care.

Offering a comprehensive range of aesthetic and wellness services, Coast Aesthetics emphasizes patient education, individualized treatment plans, and natural-looking results. Its experienced team is committed to delivering evidence-based care in a welcoming, professional environment while helping expand access to specialized medical aesthetic services for residents throughout Hancock County.

By choosing Bay St. Louis for its second location, Coast Aesthetics has invested in the continued growth of downtown while broadening the range of professional healthcare and wellness services available within the community.

Flying Dolly's Bay St. Louis

Flying Dolly's Bay St. Louis has soared onto the local business scene, quickly becoming a favorite stop for residents and visitors alike. Behind its growing popularity is the Perniciaro family, whose generations-long ties to Hancock County and reputation for hospitality have made the shop feel like a natural part of the community from day one.

Since opening on Main Street, Flying Dolly's has become a destination where neighbors reconnect, families celebrate, and visitors experience the welcoming spirit that has long defined Bay St. Louis. Featuring premium small-batch ice cream, signature snoballs, cookies, and specialty desserts, the shop has added new energy to downtown while creating a place where making memories is just as important as the menu.

By combining hometown pride with genuine hospitality, the Perniciaro family has created more than a successful business—they've created a place that brings people together and strengthens the sense of community that makes Bay St. Louis so special.

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Froogel's

Froogel's is an essential part of everyday life in Bay St. Louis by providing residents with an independently owned, full-service grocery store focused on quality, convenience, and community. Through its investment in the city, Froogel's transformed a longtime neighborhood shopping destination into a modern marketplace, creating jobs while ensuring local families continue to have access to fresh food and everyday necessities close to home.

Beyond the grocery aisles, Froogel's is an active community partner, supporting local schools, nonprofits, civic organizations, and charitable events throughout Hancock County. As the official meat sponsor of Bud & Burgers in the Bay, presented in partnership by the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and Silver Slipper Casino Hotel, the company helps support one of Bay St. Louis' signature community celebrations. Combined with its commitment to customer service, fresh products, and hometown values, Froogel's has earned the trust of Gulf Coast shoppers while reinforcing its role as a dependable cornerstone of the local economy. Plus, their playlist keeps their customers dancing through the aisles and has become the talk of the town!

By combining local ownership with a genuine commitment to the communities it serves, Froogel's continues to nourish both the people and the economic vitality of Bay St. Louis.

Lagarde's Fine Wine and Spirits

When Alan Lagarde returned to his hometown of Bay St. Louis, he brought with him a passion for exceptional wines, premium spirits, and the belief that a great bottle always comes with a great story. At Lagarde's Fine Wine & Spirits, customers find more than a carefully curated selection—they find a welcoming place where conversations about food, wine pairings, craft spirits, and the art behind each bottle are just as much a part of the experience as the purchase itself.

Located in the Depot District, Lagarde's has become a distinctive destination for those exploring Bay St. Louis. Alan's depth of knowledge, genuine hospitality, and thoughtful approach to supporting tourism and the local business community have made the shop a natural extension of the city's welcoming character.

By combining expertise, hometown pride, and a passion for sharing what he loves, Alan Lagarde has created a business that enriches both the visitor experience and the everyday life of Bay St. Louis.

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892, the Sea Coast Echo has been Hancock County's hometown newspaper of record, telling the stories that connect neighbors, celebrate local successes, and preserve the history of the community. Under the leadership of Publisher Geoff Belcher, who purchased the paper in 2025 with his wife Sandra, the Echo continues that tradition with a deep appreciation for the people and places that make Bay St. Louis special. In fact, after years of reading newspapers from across the country, Geoff chose to make Bay St. Louis his home because the stories he read in the Echo painted such a compelling picture of the community.

Published each Thursday, the Sea Coast Echo chronicles everything from local government and schools to small businesses, festivals, nonprofits, and the everyday moments that define life in Hancock County. By informing residents, celebrating community achievements, and preserving local history, the Echo continues to strengthen the connections that make Hancock County such a remarkable place to call home.

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The French Potager

Few businesses capture the creative spirit of Bay St. Louis quite like The French Potager, where owner Martha Whitney Butler has created a shop that is as inspiring and welcoming as the community she chose to call home.

Since opening in 2012, The French Potager has become a destination for those seeking elegant floral designs, unique treasures, and exceptional service. Art, flowers, antiques, and thoughtfully curated home décor come together to create an experience that reflects both the beauty of the world beyond Hancock County and the unmistakable charm of Old Town. Whether creating bespoke arrangements for weddings and life's milestone moments or helping customers discover something unexpected to take home, Butler approaches every detail with an artist's eye and a genuine passion for beauty, creativity, and hospitality.

By enriching the visitor experience, supporting the local arts community, and helping showcase Bay St. Louis as a destination for creativity and culture, The French Potager has become an integral part of what makes Old Town so unforgettable.

The Wedding Collection

Entrepreneur Kerri Simon Pellegrin has helped establish Bay St. Louis as one of the Gulf Coast's premier wedding destinations by creating businesses that guide couples from "yes" to "I do." Through The Wedding Collection, her wedding and event planning services, Harbor House Venue & Suites, and White by TWC, she has built a seamless experience that welcomes brides, wedding parties, families, and guests while showcasing the charm and hospitality of Hancock County.

At The Wedding Collection, brides receive personalized service, carefully curated designer gowns, and an experience that celebrates one of life's most meaningful milestones. White by TWC extends that celebration with stylish apparel and accessories for bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, bachelorette weekends, and other special occasions, while Pellegrin's broader wedding businesses continue to attract visitors who support local restaurants, shops, accommodations, and small businesses throughout the community.

By combining entrepreneurial vision with exceptional service and a passion for creating memories that will last a lifetime, Kerri Simon Pellegrin continues to strengthen Bay St. Louis' reputation as a place where lasting memories begin.